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NSC BRIEFING 20 October 1959

CUBA

I. Raul Castro has consolidated position in government. Now holds powerful new cabinet post as head of all army, air, navy, and police forces.

A. Raul reorganizing armed forces, which he considers primarily as means to political ends, to bring them under tighter, direct control.

1. As commander of the armed forces Raul has already eliminated almost all pre-revolution army and air force personnel, including trained technicians and mechanics.

2. Cuban military forces now at low ebb in training, discipline, effectiveness.

B. One of Raul's close associates named Minister of Labor, replacing moderate who had tried resist Communist efforts to control union elections.

II. These appointments further reduce influence of moderate officials whose awareness of economic realities had checked Fidel Castro somewhat.

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